

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-18 are now present in the application. Claims 1-16 have been amended. Claims 17 and 18 have been added. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 10 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 5, 10 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, claims 5 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of their base claim 1. Accordingly, independent claims 5 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 9, 2004 and January 25, 2005, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for accepting the formal drawings of the instant application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 6-8 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been addressed. Accordingly, all pending claims are now definite and clear. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 9 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Naoto et al., JP 10-205066 (hereinafter "Naoto"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, as the Examiner will note, independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “filling a solder resist or resin in a space between two adjacent circuit patterns by moving a squeegee to be abutted directly on an upper surface of at least one of the two adjacent circuit patterns.”

Independent claim 3 has been amended to recite “filling a solder resist or resin in at least one of the via holes by moving a squeegee to be abutted directly on an upper surface of at least one of the first circuit patterns corresponding to the at least one of the via holes.”

Support for the above combinations of steps can be found in FIGs. 4-7 as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of steps set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 3 are not disclosed or suggested by the reference relied on by the Examiner.

As the Examiner will note, independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended to include a feature similar to allowable claim 5. Therefore, amended independent claims 1 and 3 clearly define the present invention over the Naoto reference relied on by the Examiner. In particular, Naoto nowhere discloses moving a squeegee to be abutted directly on an upper surface of any circuit patterns 21 to fill in the resist film in the space between two adjacent circuit patterns 21 or any via hole (if fact, there is no via hole in Naoto to connect a circuit pattern on the surface and another circuit pattern within the board). Therefore, Naoto fails to teach “filling a solder resist or resin in a space between two adjacent circuit patterns by moving a squeegee to be abutted directly on an upper surface of at least one of the two adjacent circuit patterns” as recited in claim 1 and “filling a solder resist or resin in at least one of the via holes by moving a squeegee to be abutted directly on an upper surface of at least one of the first circuit patterns corresponding to the at least one of the via holes” as recited in claim 3.

Since Naoto fails to teach each and every recitation of amended independent claims 1 and 3, amended independent claims 1 and 3 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency)

clearly define over the teachings of Naoto. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 17 and 18 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 18 are allowable due to their respective dependence on independent claims 1 and 3, as well as due to the additional recitations included in these claims.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 17-18 are respectfully requested.

Additional Cited References

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state of the art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of one (1) months to May 11, 2006 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$120.00 is enclosed herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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